Representation of women in Print and Electronic Media

3270. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have set up Advisory Committee to assist the enforcement machinery under the Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that indecent representation of women in print and electronic media violates one of the fundamental duties of the constitution and also leading to increase the violence against women; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken and proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 or the rules framed thereunder do not have any provision for the constitution of any kind of advisory committee either at the central or state level for any purpose under the Act.

(b) The indecent representation of women in any form in the print and electronic media violates Article 51A(e) of the Constitution which specifically enjoins that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. However, there is no specific details/data to support the view that indecent representation of women is leading to increase in violence against women.

(c) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Action taken by the Government to check depiction of obscenity in the electronic and print media

As regards the electronic media, Prasar Bharati has both Programme and Advertisement Codes which *inter-alia*, prohibit telecast/broadcast of any programme or advertisement, which contains anything obscene. Doordarshan and All India Radio abide by the codes while telecasting/ broadcasting their programmes.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programmes and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed there under. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Programmes meant for children are prohibited from carrying explicit scenes of violence.

The Government has constituted a Committee to look into complaints regarding any programme of any channel not being in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. Government has constituted another committee to look into violations of the Advertising Code.

In so far as the Print media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalistic Conduct according to which Newspapers/Journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public and not in good taste.

Percentage of Science Students

†3271. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the report of the University Grants Commission average percentage of science students is decreasing;

(b) if so, the percentage in the beginning of 90's alongwith the estimated percentage at the end of the decade;

(c) whether there is a need to made science education more attractive keeping in view the changing scenario; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.